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**Filed**         :      **September 26, 2000**

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claims 3, 4, 6 and 8-12.

1.     (Previously Presented)     A method of forming a bidding auction over a remote information server, comprising:

hosting an internet auction on a computer by allowing each of a plurality of users to view a current bid and place a new bid for an item in an auction; and

automatically updating a view seen by at least some of said plurality of users on other computers to reflect a list of other bidders on the auction, and to reflect a change in a current highest price on said item, without requiring an action by said some of said plurality of bidders for said automatically updating.

2.     (Previously Presented)     A method comprising:

hosting an Internet auction for an item on a first computer connected to the Internet;

allowing placing bids for amounts to purchase said item from a second computer, connected to the Internet; and

storing information on the second computer about bids on the item, which information is not viewable at the second computer, but which information allows local determination, at the second computer, of whether an entered bid is higher than a current bid amount without contacting said first computer.

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3.          (Previously Cancelled)

4.          (Previously Cancelled)

5.          (Previously Presented)          The method as in claim 2 wherein said placing

comprises providing bids to an agent program, which keeps the amounts of the bids

secret until a time that is specified by the bid.

6.          (Previously Cancelled)

7.          (Currently Amended)          A method of conducting an auction on the

Internet, comprising:

on a computer connected to the Internet, first hosting a first portion of the auction

in a mode where users view an item, and a price for the item, in ~~an non-interactive~~ a

manner in which users can place bids on items, and in which a current highest bid can

be requested by another computer connected to the internet; and

second hosting a second portion of the auction in an interactive manner, in which

the auction participants place real time bids, which real time bids are seen automatically

by other participants in the auction.

8.          (Previously Cancelled)

9.          (Previously Cancelled)

10.          (Previously Cancelled)

11.          (Previously Cancelled)

12.          (Previously Cancelled)

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13.    (Currently Amended)       A method of automated auction bidding,
comprising:

on a first computer connected to the Internet, hosting an auction which allows
~~allowing~~ allows a plurality of users to bid on an item, where one of the plurality of users
has a highest bid, and at least one other of the plurality of users can bid an amount that
exceeds said highest bid, said first computer displaying said highest bid, and keeping
secret any maximum bid amount that is higher than said highest bid; and

enabling a quick bid whereby a user can automatically bid an amount which will
win the auction with a single click .


14.    (Previously Presented)     The method as in claim 13 wherein there are a
plurality of bids, some of which are known and others of which are secret, and wherein
said quick bid only overcomes those bids which are known.


15.    (Previously Presented)     The method as in claim 14 wherein said
plurality of bids includes a plurality of bids, associated with times when those maximum
bids can be made, and only those bids whose times have been reached are known.


16.    (Previously Presented)     The method as in claim 15 further comprising
enabling an action which allows determining both secret bids and non-secret bids.


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17.     (Previously Presented)     The method as in claim 16 wherein said action includes an extra fee beyond that which would be charged for only non-secret bids.

18.     (Previously Presented)     A system, comprising:

a server running a program that displays information about an item to be auctioned, and accepts bids on said item, and keeps track of a maximum bid; and

a client, enabling and sending a bid to said server with a single click which includes an amount of a bid.

19.     (Previously Presented)     The system as in claim 18, wherein said server automatically updates at least one screen being seen on at least one client to automatically show new bid amounts.

20.     (Previously Presented)     The system as in claim 18, wherein said client allows sending a plurality of bids, to be executed at a plurality of times.

21.     (Previously Presented)     The method as in claim 13, wherein an amount of said quick bid is displayed responsive to a specified action by the user.

22.     (Previously Presented)     The method as in claim 2, wherein said auction is one in which the server stores maximum bid amounts by users, but only displays a current bid amount without displaying said maximum bid amount, and wherein said

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values stored at said second computer determines whether an entered bid is higher

than said maximum bid amounts.


23.  (Previously Presented)   The method as in claim 7, in which users can

not view information about other bidders in the auction during said first portion of the

auction, but can view information about other bidders on the auction during said second

part of the auction.


24   (Currently Amended)   The method as in claim 7 wherein said second

~~posting~~ portion comprises displaying information on client bidders who are currently

bidding on the auction.


25.  (Previously Presented)   A method, comprising:

on a first computer connected to the Internet, hosting an Internet auction for at

least one item;

accepting bids on said at least one item, and displaying a current price for the

item, and keeping secret a current maximum bid which has been placed for the item;

and

allowing a second computer connected to the Internet to place bids on the item,

and displaying an icon which allows a bid to be placed without contacting said first

computer.


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26.    (Previously Presented)    The method as in claim 25, further comprising running an applet on said second computer, which includes information enabling determining whether an entered bid is higher than said maximum bid.

27.    (Previously Presented)    The method as in claim 25, wherein said icon enables placing a bid which is high enough to exceed said current maximum bid.

28.    (Previously Presented)    The method as in claim 25, further comprising, in said second computer, determining whether an entered bid is higher then said secret maximum bid amount, and informing a user at said second computer without contacting said first computer.

29.    (Previously Presented)    The method as in claim 25, wherein said icon allows said bid to be placed using a single click.

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